

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please insert the following paragraph after the title:

This application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application PCT/NL2003/000818, filed on November 20, 2003 which claims priority from NL Application No: 02079845.0, filed on November 20, 2002. The entire teachings of the referenced Applications are incorporated herein by reference. International Application PCT/NL2003/000818 was published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please use Claim 13 as amended under Article 19. Claim 13 as amended should read:

13. A mixed culture, containing one or more anaerobic methane-oxidising *Thermotogales* species, and one or more sulphate-reducing or metal reducing *Archeoglobus*, *Desulfotomaculum*, *Desulforomonas* or *Desulfovibrio* species.

Please insert the Abstract, appearing on the next page, immediately after the last page of the claims.